Common / Green

In Anglo-American property law, an area of land for use by the public. The term originated in feudal England, where the “waste,” or uncultivated land, of a lord's manor could be used for pasturing and firewood by his tenants. For centuries this right of commons conflicted with the lord's right to "approve" (i.e., appropriate for his own use) any of his waste, provided he left enough land to support the commoners' livestock. In the 19th century the right of approvement was in effect assumed by the government. Under modern agriculture, common pasturing became obsolete, and commons became public land used mostly for recreation.

CONCEPT | Historical Context
Town / Village Green

A village green is a common open area which is a part of a settlement. Traditionally, such an area was often common grass land at the centre of a small agricultural settlement, used for grazing and sometimes for community events. Some may also have a pond, originally for watering stock. The green is traditionally at a central location and provides an open-air meeting place for the people of a village, for example at times of celebration, or for public ceremonies.

The common use of the term village green reflects a perception of a rural, agricultural idyllic past. However the actuality of such locations always has been very wide, and can encompass woodland, moorland, sports grounds, and even — in part — buildings and roads. They may also be positioned far from the centre of the community, especially if the community has moved, or been absorbed into a larger settlement.
Boston Common Boston 1634

Earliest European usage — cattle grazing common lands

Named a ‘common’ for its use as a public resource (ie. “tragedy of the commons”)

Now a public recreation park, part of boston’s integrated park system

Activities — ice skating, freedom trail, soldiers and sailors monument, boston public garden, summer frog pond (photo), 2 subway stations, end of the freedom trail, parkman bandstand, underground parking garage, event field, softball fields
Central Park  New York City  1859

Designed by Fredrik Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux

Of great importance as the first real Park made in this century—a democratic development of the highest significance

— Olmstead

Managed by a privately funded conservancy under contract by the NYC dept. of parks and rec.

Activities — boat rental, handball courts, tennis courts, basketball courts, theatre, castle, observatory, bandshell, bowling fields, cricket fields, restaurants, zoo, chess and checkers tables, dairy, carousel, skating rink, athletic club, rock climbing, on-trail running, off-trail running, bird sanctuary, lawns, amusement park, playgrounds, soccer fields, football fields, swimming pool, recreation center
Freshkills Landfill Park Staten Island 2009 —

Adaptation of a previous landfill on Staten Island for the city of New York

The design, a result of a competition, is being phased in over 30 years

Interweaves pastoral naturalistic landscapes with highly programmed elements for human usage (new version of pastoralism)

Activities — hand ball / racket ball courts, playgrounds, soccer field, walking trails, sustainable design demonstration pavilions, methane collection system, baseball fields, basketball courts, model aircraft field, cricket field, roller hockey court, skate park, golf courses, horseback riding trails, football fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, spray showers, recreation center, zoo, aquarium, beaches, pools, on-trail / off-trail bike paths, marina, canoe rental
Erie Street Plaza  Milwaukee 2009

The is conceived as a flexible field that fosters social and environmental activity and appropriation. It activates and registers environmental cycles of stormwater by collecting runoff to support a reconstituted wetland. Socially, the plaza is designed to accommodate a wide array of potential activities including art festivals, farmers markets, gatherings, movies, concerts as well as less intense everyday uses like sunbathing, boat watching, fishing, sitting and simply hanging out.
City Park New Orleans 1853

6th largest and 7th most visited urban park in the US; also one of the oldest.

Owned by the city of new orleans, it is administered by an arm of the state govt.

The park is largely self-sustaining; the majority of it budget comes from park fees and donations

City Park holds the world’s largest collection of mature live oak trees, some older than 600 years in age

Proximities — New Orleans Museum of Art (1.95 miles), Botanical Gardens (2.02 miles), Carousel Gardens Amusement Park (2.13 miles), Besthoff Sculpture Garden (2.02 miles), historic structures: peristyle, popp bandstand, casino building; golf courses (1.63 miles), driving range (1.52 miles), softball fields (1.4 miles), soccer fields, basketball courts (1.87 miles), running track (2.27 miles), Pan-American Arena, tennis courts (2.12 miles)
The Wise Words Community Garden was developed to turn a dilapidated vacant lot from a blight on the neighborhood to a community asset. With the help of community members and volunteers, it broke ground on November 18, 2009, and its mission is to provide a home for community food and art, two essentially “New Orleans” elements.

Location: 724 S. Hennessey Street, Mid City New Orleans
Plots: 21 raised beds
Membership: 3 member types (restaurant/business, stakeholders, individuals); monthly dues $20-30
Programs/Features: raised beds, compost, chicken coop, greenhouse, local artist gallery space, volunteer programs, family events (Me and Mom Day, March 2010), Chef’s List (dedicated to local restaurants who use produce from the garden in their recipes)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/44621465@N02/4655124482/f

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Hollygrove Market and Farm New Orleans

Hollygrove Market and Farm (HM&F) is a non-profit urban agriculture training farm and produce market located in the heart of New Orleans. They are a true community effort, with numerous community organizations involved in our operations. Hollygrove Market & Farm has developed and operates a CSA-style retail market. They bring the farm to the table by making fresh produce available to the consumer without a commitment to buy shares in a farm. In addition to the market, they operate an urban farm containing farm plots, demonstration beds, and community gardens. The mission of the farm is to provide information and training to backyard gardeners interested in growing organic fruits, herbs, and vegetables.

Location: 8201 Olive St, New Orleans, LA 70118
Plots: 23 raised plots, 15 in-ground plots
Membership: csa-style 3 member types (buyers' club box, a la carte, restaurant)
Programs/Features: raised beds, compost, chicken coop, greenhouse, demonstrative pavilion, recycling, volunteer programs, family events, growing/gardening training
central park: 3393 acres
boston common: 295 acres
city park: 5157 acres
audubon: 1289 acres
lake vista park: 971 acres
bienville school park: 42 acres
woldenberg park: 32 acres
claibourne (shown): 19.5 acres
glenwood park: 6.2 acres
hollygrove m & f: 3.42 acres
jackson square: 2.9 acres
block 12: 2.36 acres
clouet gardens: 1.2 acres
erie street plaza: 1.17 acres
wise words garden: 0.34 acres
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<th>Block 12</th>
<th>Jackson Square</th>
<th>Glennwood Park</th>
<th>Cloquet Gardens</th>
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<th>Lake Viola</th>
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Activating seating strategy
Non-traditional recreation
Water features
Integrated landscaping
Seasonal kinetic growing beds
Demonstration gardens
Interactive lighting
Educational installations
Edible landscaping
St. Bernard Housing 1942

Located in the 7th ward and built between 1942 and the 1960's on the 52 acre site

The original construction of 74 buildings was built to house the urban poor

Expansion of 720 units through the 1950's

The planning of housing projects (including St. Bernard) typically broke the street grid, rerouting flow around the periphery of the complex in an "warehousing" concept
POTENTIALS | Produce Seasons
ARTICHOKE*  
VINES  
SHADE PLANT  
* PLANTS REQUIRE EXTRA SPACE AND ARE PLANTED ON ALTERNATING BEDS WITH EVERY OTHER BED LEFT EMPTY  
** TREES CAN VARY GREATLY IN SIZE, AND CAN BE PRUNED TO MAINTAIN DESIRED SIZE  

POTENTIALS | Produce Areas
1. shuffle board
2. horseshoes
3. badminton
4. bocce
5. croquet
6. volleyball
7. basketball
8. tennis
9. practice green
10. lawn bowling
11. enclosed driving range
12. little league baseball
13. ultimate frisbee
14. lacrosse
15. soccer
16. football with track
17. driving range

POTENTIALS | Athletic Fields
POTENTIALS | Performance Areas

Occupant Calculations — 3 SF Standing / 15 SF Sitting

1/4 SITE
Standing — 8,500 people
Sitting — 1,700 people
Small Amphitheater — 150+ seats

1/2 SITE
Standing — 17,000 people
Sitting — 3,400 people

WHOLE SITE
Standing — 34,000 people
Sitting — 6,800 people
Play relates to the elementary school, housing and elderly housing
Small play area near to shady existing oak
Easy access to fresh fruit from trees alongside wildflower pathways
Tall trees relate to shade dependent agriculture
- Play relates to YMCA and Elderly housing
- Shade dependent agriculture relates to existing oak
- Easy access to fresh fruit from trees on periphery
- Wildflowers create pathways through site as well as organize play field
- One large field; two small fields
- Play relates to YMCA and proposed elementary school
- Layering agriculture and agricultural amenities
- Wildflowers create pathways through layered conditions as well as creating growing areas

ST BERNARD GREEN | Composition Proposal 3
Play overlap to create a hybrid corner condition.
Shade dependent agriculture relates to existing oak and fruit trees.
Easy access to fresh fruit from trees.
Wildflowers create pathways through site as well as organize play fields.
Pockets of agriculture, fruit trees and wild flowers create destinations on the west side of the site.